

# Socio- Religious Reform Movements

# Outside Punjab

- ✓ **Started:** After The Annexation Of Punjab In 1849.
- ✓ **First Among These Movements:** Brahmo Samaj Founded In 1828 By Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Which Travelled From Bengal To Punjab (Opened At Lahore In 1864).
- ✓ The Other Such Movement Was Arya Samaj In 1875 By Dayanand Saraswati, Which Travelled From Bombay To Punjab.

- ✓ **The Most Significant Social Reform Movement Was The **Singh Sabha**.**
- ✓ **Before The Emergence Of Singh Sabha Movement, Attempts Were Made By The **Nirankaris, Namdharis And Radha Soamis**.**

# INSIDE PUNJAB

# Nirankari Movement:

- ✓ **Founded By:** Baba Dayal
- ✓ **Nirankar:** The Formless One.
- ✓ **Founded At:** Rawalpindi In 1851 On The Banks Of Stream Layee, Was Named After Him As Dayalsar.
- ✓ **Succeeded By:** Baba Darbara Singh (Eldest Son)

✓ He Built New Centres  
(Biras) And Issued  
**Hukamnama** To  
Standardize The Rituals  
Connected With Birth,  
Engagement, Marriage  
And Death, Based On  
Guru Granth Sahib.

✓ Due To Partition Of  
Punjab In 1947, The  
Nirankari Darbar Had To  
Be Shifted From  
**Rawalpindi first To  
Amristar And Then To  
Chandigarh.**



# Radha Soami Movement

- ✓ **Founded By:** Shiv Dayal Of Agra
- ✓ Describe God As The Union Between Radha (Soul) And 'Soami' (Master).
- ✓ He Propounded A Doctrine Which Contained Elements Of Both Hinduism And Sikhism.

- ✓ **After The Death Of Shiv Dayal In 1878, The Radha Soamis Split Into Two Centres.**
- ✓ **The Main Centre Was At Agra And A New Branch Was Started By Jaimal Singh, Disciple Of Shiv Dayal, on The Bank Of Beas.**

# Namdhari Or Kuka Movement:

- ✓ **Founded By:** Baba Balak Singh
- ✓ Before His Death, Baba Balak Singh Referred To His Followers As Jagiasis, But Their Modern Descendants Prefer The Title 'Namdhari'.

- ✓ After His Death, He Was Succeeded By One Of His Three Most Prominent Disciples, Baba Ram Singh.
- ✓ He Transferred The Headquarters Of Namdharis From Hazro To His Village Bhaini In Ludhiana.

✓ **He Issued Hukumnamas  
To His Followers Which  
Embraced:**

- ✓ **Ethical**
- ✓ **Personal**
- ✓ **Social**
- ✓ **Hygienic**
- ✓ **And Political Matters**

- ✓ **He Was Against Idol-worship.**
- ✓ **His Followers Tied Sidhi Pag (Straight Turban) And Kept White Woolen Rosary.**
- ✓ **His Followers Emitted Loud Shrieks (Kuks), Hence The Name Kukas.**

✓ **Baba Ram Singh Zeal For Protecting The Cow Led To Attack On Slaughter House At Amristar In 1870.**

✓ **On, 11 Jan 1872, Hundreds Of Kuka Met At Bhaini To Celebrate The Lohri And Baba Ram Singh Told The Followers To Observe Peace.**

- ✓ But Some Of The Kukas Planned To Murder The Butchers Of Malerkotla. On The Way To Malerkotla.
- ✓ They Raided The House Of **Sardar Badhan Singh Of Malaudh** To Get Arms, Where They Were Counter-attacked.



✓ In The Fracas That Followed, Eight Policemen And Seven Kukas Lost Their Lives.

✓ L. Cowan The Deputy Commissioner Of Ludhiana, Reached Malerkotla And Without Trial Blew Up With Gun 66 Of The Kukas On Jan 17.

- ✓ After Reaching Malerkotla, Forsyth, Commissioner, Ambala Division, Got Blown Up By The Same Guns The Remaining Eleven Kukas.
- ✓ Keeping Baba Ram Singh In Allahabad Jail, He Was Disposed To Rangoon.

# **Singh Sabha Movement:**

- ✓ After The Annexation Of Punjab By British 1849, The British Government Patronized And Assisted The Rapid Spread Of Christian Missionary Activities.
- ✓ The Sikhs Were Converted Into Christians.
- ✓ The First Incident Occurred Was The Conversion Of Maharaja Dalip Singh In 1853.

- ✓ What Shocked The Sikhs Was The Conversion Of Four Sikhs Of Amritsar Mission School- Aya Singh, Attar Singh, Sadhu Singh And Santokh Singh
- ✓ Thus A Meeting Was Convened By Sikh Leaders In Amritsar On 30 July 1873 To Form An Associated Name 'Sri Guru Singh Sabha'.
- ✓ **First Meeting:** Akal Takht On 1<sup>st</sup> October 1873.
- ✓ **Chairman** : Sardar Thakur Singh Sandhawalia
- ✓ **Secretary:** Giani Gian Singh

- ✓ In Novemeber 1879, Singh Sabha At Lahore Was Formed By Prodessor Gurmukh Singh And Got Affiliated To Singh Sabha Amritsar.
- ✓ In April 1880, Singh Sabha Amritsar Was Made As Central Body And Renamed As Khalsa Diwan, Amritsar.

- ✓ But Ideological Differences Soon Arose Between Both The Association On The Issue Whether Sikhism Is A Part Of Hinduism Or A Distinct Independent Faith. Those Who Toed The Latter Line F Thinking Set Up A Separate Khalsa Diwan, Lahore In 1886.
- ✓ The Organisation Was Head By Gurmukh Singh And Bhai Ditt Singh.
- ✓ **Foundation Of Khalsa Collage: Amritsar, 1892.**

- ✓ After The Death Of Professor Gurmukh Singh In 1898 And Bhai Dit Singh In 1901, The Lahore Diwan Could Not Survive And Its Place Was Taken By Chief Khalsa Diwan, Amritsar.
- ✓ **First Meeting:** Malavai Bunga Attached To Golden Temple On 30 Oct, 1902.
- ✓ **Inaugural Prayer:** Baba Teja Singh
- ✓ **First President:** Bhai Arjan Singh Of Bagrian
- ✓ **First Secretary:** Bhai Sunder Singh Majithia

- ✓ **For Over A Decade, Chief Khalsa Diwan Enjoyed The Greatest Prestige Among Sikhs.**
- ✓ **However, By 1914 Feeling Of Discontent Among The Sikhs Was Aggravated By The Komagata Maru And Rakab Ganj Affairs.**
- ✓ **The Sikhs Therefore Organised A Political Body Of Their Own Called Sikh League In 1919 At Amritsar.**
- ✓ **The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Changed The Political As Well As Religious Scenario In Which Chief Khalsa Diwan Became Irrelevant.**



## Akali Movement

- ✓ **Date:** 1920-1925
- ✓ **Location:** Punjab (British India)
- ✓ **Goal:** Transferring Control Of Sikh Gurdwaras From Traditional Clergy (Udasi Mahants) And Government-appointed Managers To Elected Sikh Bodies
- ✓ **Methods:** Nonviolent Resistance Including Demonstrations And Petitions

- ✓ **Resulted In:** Sikh Gurdwara Bill (1925) Places Historical Sikh Shrines In India Under The Control Of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee
- ✓ **First Session:** Akal Takht On 12 December, 1920
- ✓ **President:** Sunder Singh Majithia, Harbans Singh Of Attari And Bahi Jodh Singh

✓ **The Persist Of Amritsar, Taran Tarn And Nankana Sahib Openly Used Violence Against The Unarmed And Non- Violents Akalis And A Band Of More Than 100 Sikhs Were Brutally Killed By The Mahant Of Nankana Sahib In Open Day Light.**

## **Nankana massacre**

- In 1921, the Akalis turned their focus to the gurdwara at Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of the first Sikh Guru Nanak. The gurdwara was under the control of a mahant called Narain Das, who was accused of allowing immoral activities in the temple premises. One of the clergymen at the gurdwara had allegedly raped the 13-year-old daughter of a Hindu devotee from Sindh. When the Akalis tried to take over the gurdwara on 20 February 1921, the Pashtun guards of the Mahant attacked them, killing 130 people in what came to be known as the Nankana massacre

- ✓ **Two Days Later, Mahatma Gandhi And The Governor Of The Punjab Province Visited The Site, Accompanied By A Number Of Sikh And Hindu Leaders. Gandhi Sympathized With The Sikhs And Said That The Mahant Had "Out-dyered Dyer."**
- ✓ **The British Government, Finding Itself Under Immense Political Pressure, Agreed To Transfer The Control Of The Gurdwara To The Akalis On 3 March 1921. Narain Das And 26 Of His Henchmen Were Arrested.**

# Babbar Akali movement

- ✓ **Active:** 1921-1926
- ✓ **Country:** British Punjab, British India
- ✓ **Type:** Paramilitary, The Babbar Akali movement was a 1921 splinter group of "militant" Sikhs who broke away from the mainstream Akali movement over the latter's insistence on non-violence over gurdwara reform

- ✓ **The Militant Unit Was Established As Shahidi Dal (Association Of The Martyrs) In September 1920, Later Evolving Into The Babbar Akali Movement. By 1922, They Had Organized Themselves Into A Military Group And Began Killing Informers, Government Officials, And Ex-officials.**
- ✓ **They Also Published An Illegal Newspaper Describing British Exploitation Of India. It Was Declared An Unlawful Association By The British In April 1923.**

✓ They used religious imagery and discussed the loss of Sikh sovereignty in the Anglo-Sikh wars which helped them enjoy popular support. The Babbar Akali movement recruited from World War 1 veterans dissatisfied with broken land grant promises and former members of the Ghadar Party.



- ✓ Many of its members were killed in police encounters, 67 were taken alive and "5 were sentenced to death, 11 to transportation for life and 38 to various terms of imprisonment". Babbar Khalsa International was established in an attempt to emulate the Babbar Akalis.

- ✓ The original Akali movement was established to peacefully get control of gurdwaras from hereditary priests who were accused of enriching themselves.
- ✓ The Akalis took vows of nonviolence and observed them, however at Tarn Taran and Nankana Sahib in early 1921 the priests, their hired security killed a number of Sikhs. This resulted in the radicalization of the people who would form the core group of the Babbar Akalis.

# Thank you